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Message Text

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13
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSF-04 ABF-01 FS-01 SCI-06 RSC-01 DRC-01

/031 W
---------- 093913
R 290910Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6654

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PASS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR SELIM SELCUK

DEPT. FOR NEA/AFN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OSCI, TECH, EAID, TS
SUBJECT: SFCP/NSF: GOT APPROVAL OF ENIT PROJECT

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY NOTE FROM MOFA OF AUGUST 26 THAT GOT APPROVES PROJECT ENTITLED "GEOTECHNICAL RESEARCH CENTER" PROPOSED BY NATIONAL ENGINEERING SCHOOL OF TUNIS (ENIT) TO NSF FOR FINANCING UNDER SPECIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY PORGRAM. NOTE FORWARDS COPY OF PROPOSAL ALREADY SIGNED BY ENIT AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND ASKS EMBASSY TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO ASSURE REMAINING SIGNATURES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. ENIT FORWARDED PROPOSAL FOR APPROVAL TO SELCUK OF NSF BY LETTER OF JULY 29, 1974. AT REQUEST OF LATIRI, DIRECTOR OF ENIT, EMBASSY ALSO AIR POUCHING SIGNED COPY TO NSF.

3. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY FORWARDED FOUR SFC PROJECTS TO MOFA FOR APPROVAL WHICH ARE BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE BY MOFA BECAUSE OF GOT REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATION OF "MODEL AGREEMENT" COVERING ALL SUCH PROJECTS (TUNIS 4748 AND PREVIOUS). GOT APPROVAL SUBJECT PROJECT, THEREFORE, CAME AS SPECIAL SURPRISE SINCE WE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT SUBMITTED IT TO GOT PENDING NSF APPROVAL OF

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PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH PROJECT IS POTENTIALLY OF GREAT VALUE TO TUNISIA BY SUPPORTING RESEARCH IN SOIL MECHANICS CRITICAL TO CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION IN TUNISIA, BY TRAINING MUCH-NEEDED LOCAL ENGINEERS, AND BY ESTABLISHING ADVANCED LABORATORY FACILITIES, EMBASSY HAD ANTICIPATED CONSIDERABLE DELAY IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF PROJECT BY MOFA BECAUSE OF "MODEL AGREEMENT" QUESTION, SIZE OF PROJECT AND FACT THAT IT PROVIDES THAT MOST SFCP FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE IMPORTED EQUIPMENT, THEREBY REDUCING TUNISIA'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS.

4. MOFA OFFICIAL ADMITTED TO US THAT LATIRI WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN GOT APPROVAL PARTLY BY APPLICATION OF HIS CONSIDERABLE TALENTS IN "GRANTSMANSHIP." HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT GOT STILL DESIRED NEGOTIATION OF "MODEL AGREEMENT" FOR OTHER SFCP PROJECTS.

5. COMMENT: WHILE APPROVAL OF ENIT PROJECT IS WELCOMED AS POSSIBLE PRECEDENT WHICH MAY PERMIT EMBASSY URGE APPROVAL OF HIGH-PRIORITY PENDING SFCP PROJECTS IT CLEAR GOT STILL INSISTENT ON NEGOTIATION "MODEL AGREEMENT" FOR BULK OF SUCH PROJECTS. TERMS OF ENIT PROPOSAL MAY ALSO GIVE INDICATION OF PROVISIONS IN "MODEL AGREEMENT" WHICH MAY BE AGREEABLE TO GOT. BEFORE EMBASSY CAN MAKE USE OF ENIT PROJECT AS PRECEDENT, HOWEVER, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO NSF. PLEASE ADVISE.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, PROGRAMS (PROJECT)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS05338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740239-0493
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974086/aaaaaerj.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SFCP/NSF: GOT APPROVAL OF ENIT PROJECT
TAGS: OSCI, TECH, EAID, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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